



Joseph T. Naumcheff, 1927 – 2017

Dr. Joseph Thomas Naumcheff (“Joe”) passed away at age 90 at his home with his wife Suzanne and family encircling him with love. Born and raised in Ft Wayne, Indiana, Joseph was the son of Thomas Naumcheff and Molly Vera (Driver) Naumcheff.

Joseph’s life course was charted early when at age 6 he was deemed a musical child prodigy. Excelling in cornet and later the trumpet, his lifetime musical career spanned that of performer, teacher, composer, conductor and adjudicator. Early in his career - and utilizing his undergraduate degree and masters degree in Music from Ball State University - Naumcheff was a music teacher, band director then principal of Selma High School inspiring thousands of students along the way. He was a member of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra from 1950-1951 and the Muncie Civic Symphony for sixteen years. Three music honorary fraternities selected him for membership: Phi Mu Alpha, Pi Kappa Lambda and Phi Beta Mu. He was also accepted into the Indiana Bandmaster’s Hall of Fame and served as President of the Indiana State School Music Association.

Dr. Naumcheff’s love of music was perhaps only matched by his love of life-long learning. Always curious to explore the unknown, he inspired his students to do the same. After receiving his doctorate in higher education from Indiana University, Dr. Naumcheff worked at Ball State University (BSU) before retiring as the Director of Admissions. He was recognized for many outstanding accomplishments during his tenure at Ball State: the BSU chapter of Golden Key Honor Society and the BSU Singers bestowed upon him honorary status for his distinguished service; Disabled Students in Action organization recognized him for helping make the BSU campus more accessible and the Ball State Alumni Association granted him the “Benny” award for his long and extraordinary service. For his work with minority students, Joe was given the Martin Luther King Certificate of Recognition from Trinity Church.

Above all, Joe Naumcheff was a family man. Joe married Margaret “Peggy” Post of Trinity, Indiana in 1951 and resided in Muncie, Indiana. She was a devoted mother of his six children - Janan Bultman, Susanne McAlister, Ellen Post, Linda Eyrich, David Naumcheff and Thomas Naumcheff. In 1983 Peggy preceded Joe in death. After her death, Joe met another “angel on earth” – Suzanne Scagnoli Underwood and moved to Greenwood, Indiana. Along with her two children Kelly Huth and Jennifer Cloncs, together Suzy and Joe have eight children, sixteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Joseph is also survived by his only sibling, Gloriann Long of Holland, Michigan.

Joe and Suzy – who could always be found on the dance floor - continued their mutual love of music in their new hometown of Greenwood. Joe facilitated and organized the Greater Greenwood Community Band which he directed for nearly four years. In addition, Naumcheff directed the Internationally Acclaimed Baxter YMCA choir and the BSU Alumni Trumpet Quartet. In 1994, he was honored by the mayor and VFW as Greenwood’s Citizen of the Year.

Joseph Naumcheff honorably served his country in WW II in the Army serving with the 421st Army Band while stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany. After his active military tour of duty he joined the 38th Infantry Division Band and was named the band commander, a post he held until his military retirement in 1966. Upon retirement, the Military Department of Indiana granted Naumcheff the Indiana National Guard Medal for Meritorious Service where he served as its Chief Warrant Officer.

Joe will be remembered by many as an avid card player who would entertain family and friends with his humorous jokes and storytelling. He also enjoyed playing full-court basketball well into his late 70’s.

Visitation will take place on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at Wilson St Pierre, Greenwood, IN from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM. Family and friend are also invited to visit Our Lady of Greenwood from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM on Friday, December 15th for fellowship and a continental breakfast. A funeral mass will take place immediately thereafter from 10:45 AM to Noon at the church. You are invited to read the complete obituary at www.wilsonstpierre.com where you may sign the guest book or leave a personal message for the family.

A private family graveside service will be held in Muncie, IN at the Gardens of Memory. Memorial contributions can be made to the Joseph T. and Suzanne E. Naumcheff Ball State University Music Scholarship Fund at BSUF, 2800 West Bethel Avenue, Muncie, Indiana 47304.